

ST. JOHN'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

Executive Headteacher: *Mr Davey*
Chair of Governors: *Dr J McNeill*



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Monday 28th September 2026

MOBILE PHONES, APPROPRIATE USE & STAYING SAFE

Dear Parent/Carer,

As our Year 6 pupils become increasingly more independent, they are naturally spending more time with friends, using phones and social media independently, and spending time in the local community without parents or carers. We therefore wanted to share some helpful safeguarding reminders to support conversations at home (*whilst politely reminding you that the national agreed age of consent for children to independently use social media is 13*).

Phones, social media and sharing content

Young people can sometimes share something quickly without considering how it might affect somebody else. Please remind your child that they should not photograph or record another person without their agreement, or share photographs, videos, messages or personal information about others that could embarrass, upset or harm them. Phones cannot be used at all, ever, whilst on our school site. We would also encourage parents and carers to maintain an appropriate awareness of the apps their child uses, what they are sharing and who they are communicating with.

When out with friends

We want pupils to enjoy their growing independence while remembering that the same expectations of kindness, respect and responsible behaviour apply outside school. Please encourage your child to think about how their behaviour affects others, to respect members of the public and the local community, and to make choices that keep themselves and their friends safe.

Where incidents outside school involve our pupils and impact the safety, wellbeing or education of our school community, the school can review and respond appropriately in line with our Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy 2026. This may include a school consequence where necessary.

Helpful conversations at home

Regular, informal conversations can make a real difference. You may find it helpful to:

- Ask about the apps your child uses and who they communicate with.
- Discuss what they should do if they receive or see something upsetting or inappropriate.
- Encourage them to think, *“Would I be happy if somebody shared this about me?”* before sharing content about others.
- Talk about where they are going, who they are with and when they will return when meeting friends.
- Remind them that they can always speak to a trusted adult in school or at home if something worries them.

Further online safety advice is available from the **UK Safer Internet Centre**, **Internet Matters** and the **NSPCC**, while **Childline** provides confidential support directly to young people.

As Executive Headteacher, I look forward to working collaboratively with my staff, pupils, parents and carers throughout the school year.

Thank you for your continued support.

Kind regards,

Mr Davey

Executive Headteacher.

